



D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 22 - No. 41

Friday, October 15, 1954

\$2.00 a year

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Agriculture: The hurricane which hit Annapolis Valley orchards in mid-September cut Canada's 1954 apple crop by an estimated 11%, but the yield is still expected to top last year's by a slight margin. Also expected to better 1953 crops: grapes (by 9%), plums and prunes (by 1%). Harvests are expected to be smaller for peaches (by 15%), pears (by 16%), apricots (by 22%) and cherries (by 9%)... Manitoba and Alberta farmers planted fewer acres of vegetables for commercial purposes this year. Alberta acreage is down more than 4% from last year, Manitoba acreage almost 13%. (Page 2)

Food: Over 71% more strawberries were canned, quick-frozen or otherwise processed by commercial packers this year than in 1953, but 7% fewer raspberries were packed... More creamery butter, cheddar cheese, concentrated milk products and margarine were produced this September, but less ice cream and process cheese. Nine-month output was up for all except ice cream... Stocks of almost all dairy and poultry products in cold storage were higher than a year earlier on October 1. More canned beef products were held by manufacturers and wholesalers at the end of August this year, but stocks of canned pork products were down sharply from last year. (Pages 3-5)

Merchandising: Sales of chain grocery and combination food stores were up more than 6% over last year in August, but sales of shoe, drug, hardware, variety and women's clothing chains were down. Department store sales were off over 5% in the week ending October 2... With farm cash income down 3%, farmers last year spent 5% less on new implements and equipment, slightly more on repair parts than in the preceding year. (Pages 5 & 6)

Prices: Consumer prices moved lower in seven of ten regional cities between August 2 and September 1, reductions in food and clothing outweighing higher rents... Lower quotations for live stocks reduced farm prices of agricultural products more than 1% during August. (Page 9)

Foreign Trade: Smaller purchases of iron and steel products, textiles and coal were mainly responsible for the drop of nearly 16% in July imports this year. January-July imports were almost 9% lower than last year, with purchases from the U.S. down 11%. (Page 10)

Labour: Canadian workers earned nearly 3% more than last year in July, a continued decline in labour income in manufacturing being outweighed by increases in other sectors of the economy. The 7-month tally shows an overall gain of almost 2% this year despite reductions in agriculture, fishing, logging, construction and manufacturing. (Page 13)

Apple Crop Prospects
Reduced By Hurricane

The hurricane which struck the apple orchards of Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley in mid-September reduced the estimated 1954 apple crop by about 11%, but the yield is still expected to top last year's. Allowing for a minimum of 850,000 bushels in Nova Scotia, total Canadian production is estimated at 11,800,000 bushels for this year, slightly above the 1953 crop of 11,700,000 bushels. Efforts are being made to salvage fruit blown to the ground during the hurricane and Nova Scotia's output will depend to a considerable degree on the success of this program. The first estimate of commercial apple production, published early in September, placed Nova Scotia's production at 2,200,000 bushels and the total Canadian crop at 13,200,000 bushels. The New Brunswick apple crop, previously estimated at about the same size as last year, was also damaged by the hurricane and is now expected to total 250,000 bushels, 4% less than in 1953. The crop in Ontario is now estimated at 2,800,000 bushels and in Quebec at 1,800,000 bushels, in both cases a decrease of 6% from last year. British Columbia's apple crop is now estimated at 6,100,000 bushels, about 1% more than in 1953.

The pear crop is now estimated at 1,200,000 bushels, 16% below the 1953 yield of 1,400,000 bushels. Production is expected to be 25% higher than in 1953 in Nova Scotia, but 13% lower in Ontario and 21% lower in British Columbia. The 1954 peach crop is estimated at 2,451,000 bushels, down 15% from the 1953 yield of 2,893,000 bushels. Production is expected to be down 8% in Ontario and 46% in British Columbia. This year's crop of apricots, production of which is confined to British Columbia, is estimated at 129,000 bushels, a drop of 22% from 165,000 bushels last year.

The 1954 crop of plums and prunes is now expected to total 782,000 bushels, about 1% above the 1953 yield of 775,000 bushels. Production in Nova Scotia will be double that of 1953 and the output in British Columbia will be 11% greater, but in Ontario the yield is expected to be down by about 6%. The grape crop will reach an estimated 87,950,000 bushels this year, 9% above the 1953 yield of 80,533,000 bushels. A 10% increase in Ontario is expected to outweigh a 14% decrease in British Columbia. The 1954 cherry crop is now set at 407,000 bushels, a drop of 9% from 449,000 bushels last year. A 40% cut in British Columbia is expected to outweigh a 3% gain in Ontario. Estimates for the production of strawberries, raspberries and loganberries are unchanged from the Bureau's first estimate, raspberries showing an increase of 3% over last year, strawberries a decline of 5% and loganberries a decline of 10%. (1)

Vegetable Acreages Down This
Year In Manitoba And Alberta

Commercial acreages of vegetables planted in Manitoba and Alberta are lower this year than in 1953. In Manitoba the acreage is down to 5,240 from 6,000 last year, and in Alberta to 8,795 from 9,200. The Manitoba decline is the result of smaller acreages of asparagus (90 versus 110 acres in 1952) and corn (1,430 versus 2,660), acreages being unchanged for beets (90) and cabbage (480), and higher for beans (280 versus 190), carrots (320 versus 190), cauliflower (480 versus 320), lettuce (220 versus 170), onions (540 versus 530), peas (1,050 versus 1,040), and tomatoes (260 versus 220). The Alberta decline is the result of reduced acreages of corn (3,000 versus 3,700 acres in 1952) and onions (75 versus 100), acreages being increased for beans (510 versus 460), cabbage (280 versus 210), carrots (220 versus 110) and peas (4,710 versus 4,620). (1)

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Larger Stocks Of Most Dairy And Poultry Products At Start Of October This Year

Cold storage stocks of creamery butter, cheddar cheese, skim milk powder, ice cream, eggs and poultry

were higher on October 1 than on the same date last year, while holdings of evaporated whole milk and frozen cream were lower.

Creamery butter stocks amounted to 114,331,000 pounds versus 94,309,000, cheddar cheese 48,787,000 pounds versus 47,845,000, evaporated whole milk 64,947,000 pounds versus 67,635,000, skim milk powder 18,944,000 pounds versus 16,858,000, ice cream 1,092,000 gallons versus 1,042,000, frozen cream 611,000 pounds versus 900,000, eggs 379,000 cases versus 245,000 and poultry 14,940,000 pounds versus 12,701,000. (2)

Production Of Creamery Butter, Cheddar Cheese Up In September And Nine Months

Production of creamery butter, cheddar cheese and concentrated milk products moved up in September and the first

nine months this year as compared with last but the output of ice cream declined. Domestic disappearance of creamery butter increased over a year earlier.

Creamery butter production in September amounted to 34,492,000 pounds as compared with 31,629,000 in the same month last year, bringing the January-September total to 256,849,000 pounds as compared with 247,357,000. Domestic disappearance in September totalled 26,588,000 pounds as compared with 26,369,000, and January-September disappearance aggregated 213,602,000 pounds as compared with 207,255,000.

September's output of cheddar cheese amounted to 9,915,000 pounds as compared with 8,240,000, and January-September production aggregated 67,833,000 pounds as compared with 61,752,000. Ice cream production in September totalled 2,386,000 gallons as compared with 2,814,000, and in the nine-month period aggregated 23,571,000 gallons as compared with 24,060,000. Output of concentrated milk products in September totalled 40,889,000 pounds as compared with 36,680,000, bringing the cumulative total to 370,819,000 pounds as compared with 359,600,000. (3)

Less Process Cheese Produced In September, But 9-Month Total Up

Less process cheese was made in September this year but the total production for the first nine months was 2% higher than in

1953 at 32,821,000 pounds versus 32,111,000. September output amounted to 3,795,000 pounds, an increase of 6% over the revised figure of 3,583,000 for August but a decrease of 9% from last year's September production of 4,185,000. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of September totalled 1,265,000 pounds, down from the revised figure of 1,443,000 for the end of August but up from the 1,134,000 held on the same date last year.

Margarine Production Higher In September And Nine Months

Production of margarine rose 22% in September to 10,755,000 pounds from 8,795,000 in the corresponding month last year. This

raised the cumulative output for the first nine months of the year 7% to 83,346,000 pounds from 77,683,000 in the like 1953 period. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses on October 1 were 2,585,000 pounds, down from 2,632,000 a month earlier but up from last year's 2,356,000 pounds. (4)

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Ranks of Fishermen Thinned As Sails
Give Way To Powered Fishing Vessels

Sails have given way to engines and small boats to larger vessels in Canada's fishing fleet since the war, and the

change has thinned the ranks of the men who fish the rivers, lakes and seas. Excluding Newfoundland, capital investment in vessels, boats and gear in the sea and inland fisheries more than doubled in six years, from \$47,413,000 in 1946 to \$102,942,000 in 1952, while the number of commercial fishermen dropped from 73,514 to 64,342. Modernization of the fishing fleet has meant an increase of nearly 150% in the average investment in equipment per fisherman, from \$644 in 1946 to \$1,600 in 1952. In the six years the value of nets, lines, traps and other fishing gear almost doubled from \$18,212,100 to \$35,732,400. Vessels increased by 406 to 2,369 and the average value rose from \$6,738 to \$15,867, total value advancing from \$13,228,900 to \$37,589,900. Boats decreased by 3,412 to 35,255 but the average value rose from \$413 to \$840, total value increasing from \$15,972,200 to \$29,620,300.

The changing nature of the fishing fleet has been most marked in coastal waters. In 1946 there were 36 sailing vessels of 10 to 40 tons fishing the Atlantic and the Pacific; by 1952, none were left, and all vessels of 10 tons or more were powered by gasoline or diesel engines. In the six years the number of gasoline vessels of 40 tons and over increased from two to 12, the number of 20 to 40 tons from 45 to 75, and the number of 10 to 20 tons from 1,101 to 1,278. The number of diesel vessels of 10 to 40 tons and over increased from 531 to 756, the number of trawlers from 6 to 19, the number of draggers from 99 to 229, and the number of carrying boats, smacks and fish packers from 464 to 1,198. Over the same period there were decreases in all kinds of small fishing boats -- sail and row boats from 12,600 to 9,278; gasoline boats from 18,264 to 16,514; diesel boats from 289 to 134. In the inland fisheries the proportion of powered boats increased from less than 28% in 1946 to more than one-third in 1952.

The decline in the number of fishermen since 1946 has been confined to men fishing boats and men fishing from the shore. Men fishing from vessels increased by 1,245 to 9,772 in 1952, while men fishing from boats decreased by 4,460 to 44,732, and men fishing from shore by 5,857 to 9,838. The number of persons employed in fish processing establishments also decreased, from 19,396 in 1946 to 15,008 in 1952. All told, the number employed in Canada's fishing industry was reduced by 13,530 or 15% in the six years to 79,380, while the total value of fish products and by-products was increased by nearly one-fourth from \$121,000,000 in 1946 to \$150,000,000 in 1952. (5)

Commercial Pack Of Strawberries
Up But Raspberry Pack Decreased

Commercial canners increased the pack of strawberries by 36% this year as compared with last but there was a small decrease

(2.7%) in the pack of raspberries. The strawberry pack weighed 4,884,285 pounds as compared with 3,589,135 in 1953, and the raspberry pack 4,494,924 pounds as compared with 4,601,138. The number of containers was increased for both packs, strawberries rising to 423,078 dozen from 274,119, and raspberries to 363,379 dozen from 356,223. Strawberries processed other than by canning declined to 9,975,214 pounds from 11,772,463, and raspberries to 7,735,811 pounds from 7,867,668. Strawberries used by processors in 1954 increased to 17,497,838 raw pounds from 10,169,051, but raspberries fell to 10,596,407 raw pounds from 11,440,815.

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Stocks of Canned Meat Less Than
One-Fifth As Large As Last Year

More canned beef products were held by manufacturers and wholesalers at the end of August this year, but a sharp drop in holdings of canned pork products reduced total stocks of canned meat to 12,531,531 pounds, less than one-fifth the 69,005,653 pounds held on the same date last year.

Stocks of all canned beef products except corned beef were higher on August 31 this year. Beef stews and boiled dinners were up to 3,338,990 pounds from 2,328,585 at the end of August last year, and roast beef to 88,480 pounds from 67,966. Corned beef stocks were off to 725,715 pounds from 935,424, but holdings of other beef products were up to 1,274,013 pounds from 1,259,250.

Stocks of all canned pork products were lower at the end of August this year. Holdings of spiced pork and ham were down to 3,147,324 pounds from 60,153,172 a year earlier, roast pork and ham to 783,308 pounds from 1,028,630, and other pork products to 1,257,976 pounds from 1,746,083. Stocks of canned fowl at August 31 amounted to 674,193 pounds, up from 434,207 on the same date last year, while holdings of canned meat paste were down to 758,174 pounds from 771,135. Stocks of all other canned meats were up to 483,358 pounds from 281,201.

Shipments Of Prepared
Stock & Poultry Feeds

Production of prepared stock and poultry feeds in this year's January-May period included 110,604 tons of primary or concentrated feeds (91,468 a year ago), and 766,752 tons of secondary or finished feeds (580,300). (6)

MERCHANDISING

Grocery and Combination Chain Store
Sales Higher in August; Others Lower

Grocery and combination food chain stores increased their sales 6.4% in August as compared with a year earlier but five other kinds of chain outlets had sales declines. Chain shoe store sales fell 7.5%, drug stores 3.2%, hardware stores 1.7%, variety stores 0.5%, and women's clothing stores 0.3%.

Inventories were higher in value at the beginning of August for all except clothing stores which declined 10.7%. Largest rise of 25.4% was shown for grocery and combination food stores, followed by drug stores at 10.6%, variety stores 9.7%, hardware stores 7.5%, and shoe stores 6%.

Sales by kinds of chains were as follows in thousands: grocery and combination food stores, \$65,416 (\$61,469); variety stores, \$13,866 (\$13,937); women's clothing stores, \$2,994 (\$3,003); shoe stores, \$2,818 (\$3,048); drug stores, \$2,637 (\$2,725); hardware stores, \$1,165 (\$1,185).

August 1 stocks were: grocery and combination food stores, \$56,832 (\$45,315); variety stores, \$51,487 (\$46,927); shoe stores, \$20,780 (\$19,609); drug stores, \$10,115 (\$9,146); women's clothing stores, \$7,654 (\$8,574); hardware stores, \$6,540 (\$6,084). (7)

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Farmers Spent Less On New Implements And Equipment, More On Repair Parts Last Year

With farm cash income down 3%, Canadian farmers last year spent about 5% less on new implements and equipment and slightly more on repair parts than in 1952. The wholesale value of farm implement and equipment sales fell to \$238,050,354 in 1953 from \$250,277,-241 in the preceding year, while sales of repair parts rose to \$31,818,818 from \$31,231,946. On the basis of an average reported mark-up of 22.8%, the Bureau estimates the retail value of farm implement and equipment sales at \$292,326,000 last year as compared with an estimated \$307,000,000 in 1952 when the average reported mark-up was 22.6%. The average reported mark-up on repair parts decreased to 33.5% from 34.5%, placing the estimated retail value at \$42,478,000 versus \$42,000,000 in 1952.

Newfoundland farmers bought implements and equipment with a wholesale value of \$281,712 in 1953, nearly 11% more than the \$254,276 worth purchased in 1952, and sales to Saskatchewan farmers were almost 6% higher at \$80,333,503 versus \$75,859,527. In all other provinces, however, sales were lower last year than in 1952, decreasing to \$7,563,698 from \$8,864,275 in the Maritime Provinces, to \$20,587,165 from \$23,745,129 in Quebec, to \$45,442,835 from \$51,448,643 in Ontario, to \$28,030,312 from \$31,578,047 in Manitoba, to \$51,302,523 from \$53,-505,361 in Alberta, and to \$4,508,606 from \$5,021,983 in British Columbia. Because of the increase in Saskatchewan, the province with the largest sales, the total for the Prairie Provinces was only fractionally lower than in 1952 and, in fact, accounted for a larger proportion of the national total -- 67.1% versus 64.3%. The Prairie Provinces also accounted for over two-thirds of the total sales of repair parts in both 1953 and 1952. The wholesale value of repair part sales dropped last year in Newfoundland, Ontario and British Columbia, but increased slightly in other provinces.

Last year Canadian farmers bought less planting, seeding and fertilizing machinery, ploughs, harvesting machinery, machines for preparing crops for market, tractors and engines, farm wagons, trucks and sleighs, and barn equipment, but more tilling, cultivating and weeding machinery, haying machinery, spraying and dusting equipment, water systems and pumps, dairy machinery and equipment, poultry farm equipment, and miscellaneous farm equipment. Sales of tractors and engines, the largest commodity group, fell over 5% to \$85,261,224 from \$89,991,854 in 1952, continuing the downward trend in evidence since 1949 when sales amounted to \$102,026,000. Sales were slightly higher last year in the Prairies, but declined elsewhere. Sales of harvesting machinery, the second largest commodity in value terms, were down over 6% last year at \$69,579,783 versus \$74,336,442 in 1952, but were higher than in all earlier years. Sales of haying machinery were nearly 15% higher at \$19,787,111 versus \$17,230,060, sales in the Prairie Provinces jumping almost 52%. Sales of ploughs decreased 7.5% to \$16,870,246 from \$18,234,921, but sales of tilling, cultivating and weeding machinery increased 5.5% to \$10,696,349 from \$10,-137,619. (8)

Department Store Sales Dropped 5.1% In Week

Department store sales fell 5.1% below 1953 in the week of October 2. There were declines in all but two provinces. Sales in British Columbia rose 0.7% and in Quebec 3.3%. The decrease in the Maritimes was 0.8%, Ontario 3%, Manitoba 21.6%, Saskatchewan 33.1%, and Alberta 8.5%.

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1951 Census Volume On Retail Trade Ready For Distribution

The first two volumes containing the final results of the 1951 Census of Distribution, Census Volume VII, which deals with retail trade, has been returned by the Bureau. Its companion volume, which deals with wholesale trade and service establishments, is in the hands of the printer and bound copies are expected to be ready for distribution next month.

Volume VII contains a wealth of information on a wide range of aspects of Canada's retail trade which are of particular interest and value to market research and sales organizations. Preprints issued last year contained some of the more significant facts revealed by the 1951 Census; to this the volume adds much other data and many useful breakdowns.

The volume contains 26 tables. These cover statistics of retail trade by kinds of business for Canada and the provinces, metropolitan areas, cities of 30,000 population and over, and by counties or census divisions and for incorporated places of 1,000 and over.

Among the more important tabulations covered in the volume are those showing detail figures on the credit structure of retail stores grouped according to sales size and by number of employees. The flow of commodities through retail establishments is traced through six commodity tables. These tables show the distribution of commodity sales by individual kinds of business and the types of businesses handling specific commodities.

Volume VII also contains a brief introduction which contains pertinent definitions and appendices consisting of provincial and metropolitan area maps, and reproductions of the 1951 Census of Distribution documents.

Those who have already placed orders for bound census volumes may expect to receive their copy of Volume VII shortly. Price of census volumes is \$3.00 per copy and \$25.00 for the full set of 11 volumes. (9)

MANUFACTURING

Rubber Production Up In August

Domestic production of both synthetic and reclaim rubber increased in August as compared with the preceding month. Consumption was higher for synthetic but lower for natural and reclaim, and month-end stocks increased for all three.

The month's output of synthetic rubber was 7,334 tons versus 5,846 in July, and reclaim amounted to 266 tons versus 237. Consumption of natural rubber amounted to 2,799 tons versus 2,813, synthetic 1,973 tons versus 1,945, and reclaim 627 tons versus 871. End-of-August stocks of natural rubber were 5,203 tons versus 4,951, synthetic 6,409 tons versus 5,905, and reclaim 1,397 tons versus 1,355. (10)

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Shipments Of Iron Pipes, Fittings Declined In July And Seven Months

Smaller tonnages of cast iron pipes and fittings were produced and shipped in July and the first 7 months this year as compared with a year earlier, but both production and shipments of steel pipe and fittings increased in July but declined in the cumulative period.

The month's output of iron castings of all kinds amounted to 42,200 tons as compared with 58,500, and the shipments totalled 44,300 tons as compared with 51,600. Seven-month production aggregated 432,200 tons as compared with 491,800, and the shipments totalled 298,400 tons as compared with 336,700.

July's output of steel pipe, tubing and fittings amounted to 22,500 tons as compared with 19,400, and the shipments were 25,800 tons as compared with 22,000. January-July production aggregated 107,200 tons as compared with 156,400, and the shipments totalled 110,300 tons as compared with 143,500. (11)

Output Of Refined Petroleum Products Rose 15.5% In June

Boosted by large increases in motor gasoline, stove oil, diesel fuel, furnace oil, and heavy fuel oil, June's output of refined petroleum products rose 15.5% to 14,221,235 barrels from 12,311,375 in the corresponding month last year. Receipts of crude advanced 8% to 15,927,395 barrels from 14,714,192, and July 1 inventories of refined products climbed 21.5% to 22,269,764 barrels from 18,319,829.

June's output of motor gasoline rose to 6,172,048 barrels from 5,407,148 a year ago, stove oil to 805,843 barrels from 525,850, diesel fuel to 1,395,961 barrels from 1,334,542, furnace oil to 1,544,368 barrels from 1,081,092, and heavy fuel oil to 2,375,135 barrels from 2,325,037.

Supplies of crude petroleum from domestic sources rose 23.4% to 8,606,272 barrels from 6,970,908, but imported crude dropped 5.5% to 7,321,123 barrels from 7,743,284. Venezuela accounted for the bulk of the imported supplies, rising slightly to 5,357,418 barrels from 5,274,799. Imports from the United States were cut to 776,283 barrels from 1,314,206, Arabia to 643,146 barrels from 731,222, but supplies from Mexico rose to 544,276 barrels from 423,057. (12)

Coal Tar Distillation Industry

Increased production of refined tar, pitch, and creosote oil raised the factory value of products shipped by Canada's coal tar distillation industry in 1953 by 8% to \$13,634,899 from \$12,634,276 in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. There were 11 distilleries in operation with 541 employees (500 in 1952) and a wage and salary bill of \$1,861,353 (\$1,679,495).

The year's output of refined tar amounted to 4,742,967 gallons valued at \$842,477 compared with 3,976,884 tons worth \$715,905. Production of pitch totalled 132,737 tons valued at \$4,783,378 compared with 131,742 tons valued at \$4,477,039, and the output of creosote oils amounted to 13,750,179 gallons valued at \$3,846,145 compared with 11,608,114 gallons valued at \$3,226,226. (13)

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Consumer Price Indexes
Down In 7 Of 10 Cities

Seven of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between August 2 and September 1, two advanced and one remained unchanged. Food indexes moved lower in seven cities and higher in three as decreases were reported for pork, lamb, fresh vegetables and coffee, while mixed changes occurred in beef, butter, eggs, fresh fruits and canned foods.

Rent increases were recorded in six centres, but there was no change in the remaining four. Generally lower quotations for men's hats, work clothes and underwear and women's dresses and stockings resulted in declines in clothing indexes in eight cities, while the Montreal and Toronto series were unchanged.

Mixed price changes which were recorded throughout the household operation group were reflected in decreases in six cities. Increases were registered in two centres while the Halifax and Ottawa series showed no change. Among other commodities and services, although scattered fluctuations were recorded in automobile operation, radios and toilet soap, indexes remained at the same level in seven cities. They were slightly lower in two cities and higher in one.

Total indexes for September 1 and August 2, and September 1 group index detail are shown below. Indexes show changes in prices in each city, do not indicate whether it costs more to live in one city than another.

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities
(Base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - September 1, 1954				
	Aug. 2, Sept. 1, 1954 1954		Food Shelter Clothing Operation & Services				
							Other Household Commodities & Services
St. John's *	104.4	103.4	102.2	107.4	102.0	103.5	103.5
Halifax	115.3	114.8	109.1	123.0	115.6	119.0	116.0
Saint John	117.6	117.7	114.4	122.1	117.9	116.4	122.9
Montreal	117.2	116.6	113.4	133.6	110.2	115.9	116.8
Ottawa	117.0	116.9	112.8	129.3	112.9	115.9	118.8
Toronto	119.0	118.8	111.6	142.0	111.4	116.3	119.0
Winnipeg	116.4	115.7	112.0	124.1	114.8	113.5	117.5
Saskatoon-Regina	115.3	115.1	114.2	114.3	116.4	118.4	112.7
Edmonton-Calgary	115.4	115.7	113.5	119.7	113.7	115.5	118.1
Vancouver	118.1	118.1	113.7	125.5	113.1	125.5	118.8

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

Farm Prices Index
Dropped In August

Lower prices for live stock dropped Canada's index number of farm prices of agricultural products in August to 231.0 from 234.0 in the preceding month. Apart from higher prices for potatoes August prices for other commodities were relatively unchanged from July. Provincial indexes were higher than in July for the Maritimes and British Columbia but lower for other areas. (14)

Imports Declined Nearly 16% In July
With Most Of Drop In U.S. Purchases.

Reduced purchases of iron and steel products, particularly such items as farm machinery, motor vehicles and parts, and engines and boilers, of fibres and textiles, both raw materials and finished products, and a further larger decrease in coal were responsible for the greater part of the drop in Canada's July imports, according to final summary figures. The greater part of the decline occurred in imports from the United States.

Total imports in the month fell 15.8% to \$341,246,000 from \$405,435,000 in July last year, the decrease of \$64,189,000 being the largest in dollar value this year. The index of average prices (on the base 1948 equals 100) was up slightly to 110.8 from 109.8 last year, so that volume was down 16%. In the seven months ended July imports aggregated \$2,391,358,000, down 8.8% from \$2,621,998,000 for the like 1953 period.

Imports from the United States dropped 16% in July to \$240,557,000 from \$286,528,000, the decrease representing about seven-tenths of the total decrease. In the seven months United States imports were down 11% to \$1,743,338,000 from \$1,958,941,000, the decline of \$215,603,000 comparing with the drop of \$230,640,000 in imports from all countries.

In July the values of imports from the United States were lower than in 1953 in all main commodity groups except agricultural and vegetable products, the sharpest decreases being in the iron and non-metallic mineral groups; the same was true for the seven months except that wood and paper products showed a small increase.

Purchases from the United Kingdom in July fell to \$34,989,000 from \$47,070,000 a year earlier, a sharper decline percentagewise than imports from the United States, but in the seven months showed a smaller decline of 10% to \$239,118,000 from \$266,660,000. The decreases in both periods were spread through most of the main commodity groups with the sharpest declines in the fibres and textiles and iron and steel products groups.

Imports from all other Commonwealth countries were down moderately in July to \$16,303,000 from \$17,916,000, but for the seven months were up to \$97,111,000 from \$94,373,000. Purchases from the West Indies group showed a substantial gain in July, and those from Asia a slight rise, while others were lower. Over the seven months there were increases for the West Indies group and the African countries as a whole, and declines for the Asia and Oceania groups but gains for India and Australia.

Purchases from Latin America declined in July to \$25,109,000 from \$31,096,000, but in the seven months rose slightly to \$169,973,000 from \$168,824,000. July imports from Europe were moderately lower at \$15,079,000 against \$15,953,000, the seven-month total showing a smaller decrease at \$95,688,000 compared to \$96,220,000. For both geographic areas there were mixed gains and losses in the month and seven months for major supply sources. Imports from the remaining foreign countries as a whole again advanced in July to \$7,483,000 from \$5,950,000, raising the cumulative total to \$38,573,000 from \$32,230,000.

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July imports of the iron and products group fell to \$114,302,000 from \$150,241,000, the seven-month total declining to \$849,950,000 from \$980,757,000. Major factors in the month's drop were sharp declines in rolling-mill products, engines and boilers, farm machinery, non-farm machinery, automobiles and automobile parts, as shown in the table below. Pipes, tubes and fittings was a main exception to this trend.

Purchases of the non-metallic minerals group decreased in the month to \$54,382,000 from \$64,589,000 and in the seven months to \$328,479,000 from \$361,366,000, reduced imports of coal and petroleum products accounting for most of both declines.

The non-ferrous group fell less in July to \$28,189,000 from \$32,399,000 and in the seven months to \$191,915,000 from \$204,123,000. Chemicals and allied products decreased still less to \$17,583,000 (\$18,874,000) and \$126,946,000 (\$130,342,000).

Imports in the fibres and textiles group dropped in July to \$25,132,000 from \$31,539,000, and in the January-July period to \$193,334,000 from \$247,217,000. Except for flax, hemp, jute and their products, all main items in this group were lower in July, and all were down in the seven months.

In contrast with other groups, agricultural and vegetable products rose moderately to \$43,487,000 from \$42,639,000, and for the seven months stood at \$298,518,000 against \$272,735,000. There were noteworthy increases in this group for cocoa, coffee, tea and vegetable oils. (15 & 16)

The following table shows the value of major commodity imports in July and the January-July period, together with corresponding 1953 figures, listed in order of value for the seven months.

	July		January-July	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
	(in thousands of dollars)			
Machinery, non-farm	36,831	31,618	242,681	238,236
Automobile parts	18,855	13,869	147,374	128,059
Petroleum, crude	20,361	20,720	125,456	126,286
Farm implements & machinery	25,450	12,751	154,608	104,155
Petroleum products	14,225	12,478	70,929	65,471
Fruits	12,937	11,820	58,976	63,154
Rolling-mill products	10,951	6,963	72,156	61,057
Engines & boilers	10,686	6,686	73,295	59,026
Automobiles	10,844	4,107	74,833	53,916
Coal	14,344	8,572	74,298	55,130
Cotton products	6,456	5,049	59,464	46,156
Coffee & chicory	4,411	5,478	33,460	42,080
Pipes, tubes, fittings ...	4,432	10,504	39,995	41,299
Books & printed matter ...	5,014	5,050	38,723	38,542
Wool products	7,474	5,397	43,283	36,223
Sugar & products	5,226	6,207	28,662	31,059

Railway Carloadings Nearly 9% Below
1953 In Last Nine Days Of September

pending period of 1953, and receipts from foreign connections dropped nearly 13% to 35,047 cars from 40,260.

Railway carloadings during the last nine days of September declined almost 9% to 106,393 cars from 116,617 in the corres-

The decline in carloadings and receipts from foreign connections from last year's levels has been maintained almost constantly since the start of the year. During the nine months to the end of September loadings in Canada fell by more than 9% to 2,722,165 cars from 3,001,872, and receipts from foreign connections were off almost 14% to 1,064,629 cars from 1,234,053.

Among goods carried in smaller quantities in the last nine days of September this year were grain, loadings of which fell to 10,487 cars from 13,954 a year earlier; vegetables down to 754 cars from 4,233; automobiles, trucks and parts, off sharply to 596 cars from 2,430; miscellaneous carload commodities, to 6,544 cars from 7,147; and merchandise in less than carload lots to 19,819 cars from 21,770. Carried in larger volume were: grain products, 3,946 cars (3,571); and non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 4,518 (3,984).

In the nine-month period the following commodities were among the larger declines: grain, 254,271 cars (396,330 last year); iron ore, 26,886 (36,174); iron and steel products, 42,524 (49,742); automobiles, trucks and parts, 59,030 (69,627); miscellaneous carload commodities, 170,747 (186,227); and merchandise in less than carload lots, 541,675 (612,752). Loaded in larger volume were: coal, 182,070 cars (173,988); and non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 112,953 (104,015). (17)

First Increase In Net Income Of
Air Carriers Since September, 1953

month last year. This was the first increase since September 1953 and was the result of a reduction in total operating expenses to \$8,547,117 from \$8,823,194, and a small rise in operating revenues to \$9,940,777 from \$9,888,249.

Canadian air carriers increased their net income by almost 31% in June to \$1,393,660 from \$1,065,055 in the corresponding

Both scheduled and non-scheduled operators shared in the increased net income this June. Scheduled lines earned \$884,359 as compared with \$670,062, and non-scheduled carriers netted \$509,301 as against \$394,993.

Revenues received from the transportation of passengers in unit toll transportation services rose 11.2% to \$6,392,083 from \$5,750,508 in June 1953, mail revenue to \$874,202 from \$839,826, freight revenue to \$477,668 from \$448,484, and excess baggage receipts to \$68,089 from \$60,778. Total revenue for unit toll transportation services rose to \$7,812,042 from \$7,099,596. All bulk transportation operations were down from June last year and revenues dropped to \$1,513,521 from \$2,060,866.

All expense accounts, except aircraft operation and maintenance costs which were reduced to \$4,698,396 from \$5,355,463, were higher this June. Ground operation and maintenance expenses rose to \$2,227,413 from \$2,112,769, traffic charges to \$1,057,606 from \$915,109, general administration expenses to \$517,023 from \$400,228, and general taxes to \$46,679 from \$39,625. (18)

MORE

Fewer Passengers Carried On Transit Systems In July; Revenues Increased

Urban and interurban transit companies transported 6% fewer passengers in July than in the corresponding month last year but their combined revenues were slightly higher. Number of passengers carried was 100,370,916 as compared with 107,290,592 and the revenues aggregated \$14,-382,666 as compared with \$14,280,760.

Urban passengers declined to 93,179,073 from 99,209,503, but revenues rose to \$9,441,897 from \$9,276,427. Passenger traffic on interurban lines fell to 7,191,843 from 8,081,089 and their revenues were cut to \$4,940,769 from \$5,004,-333. (19)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Labour Income Higher In July And 7 Months

Earnings of Canadian workers reached an estimated \$1,010,-000,000 in July, up \$10,000,000 from the preceding month and \$27,000,000 above last year's July total. This brought the cumulative labour income for the January-July period to \$6,777,000,000, up \$120,000,000 or 1.8% from a year earlier.

Labour income in manufacturing continued to fall, dropping to \$323,000,000 in July from \$325,000,000 in the preceding month and \$330,000,000 in the corresponding month last year. The January-July total declined to \$2,260,000,000 from \$2,297,000,000 a year ago.

In utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade July's labour income rose to \$262,000,000 from \$259,000,000 in June and \$253,000,000 in the same month last year, and the 7-month total climbed to \$1,762,000,000 from \$1,715,000,000. Most of the rise over June occurred in transportation, storage and communication.

For the finance and services group July's wage bill was \$233,000,000, down from \$237,000,000 in June, but up from \$212,000,000 a year earlier. The 7-month aggregate rose to \$1,605,000,000 from \$1,470,000,000. The decrease from June was due to the annual closing of schools for summer vacation.

The seasonal rise in outdoor activities in agriculture, fishing and logging mainly accounted for an increase in July to \$80,000,000 in the primary industries from \$74,000,000 in June. This was \$3,000,000 more than in July last year. However, the 7-month total was down to \$475,000,000 from \$485,000,000 last year.

A large part of the increase in labour income in construction in July to \$77,000,000 from \$70,000,000 in June was due to a step-up in residential building. Last year's July wage bill for construction was \$76,000,000. In the cumulative period it was down to \$437,000,000 from \$453,000,000.

Supplementary labour income in July stood at \$35,000,000, unchanged from the preceding month and July last year. For the January-July period there was a small rise to \$238,000,000 from \$237,000,000. (20)

(Publications numbered similarly to reviews to indicate source of latter)

- 1- M: Fruit & Vegetable Crop Report: Second Estimate of Commercial Fruit Production & Preliminary Estimates of Planted Acreages of Certain Vegetables Grown for Sale in Manitoba & Alberta, 1954, 10¢
 - 2- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, October 1, 10¢
 - 3- Dairy Factory Production, September, 10¢
 - 4- M: Margarine Statistics, September, 10¢
 - 5- Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1952, 50¢
 - 6- Shipments & Inventories of Prepared Stock & Poultry Feeds, May & June, 25¢
 - 7- Chain Store Sales & Stocks, August, 10¢
 - 8- Farm Implement & Equipment Sales, 1953, 25¢
 - 9- Volume VII, 1951 Census of Distribution: Retail Trade, \$3.00
 - 10- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, August, 25¢
 - 11- M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, July, 10¢
 - 12- Refined Petroleum Products, June, 25¢
 - 13- Coal Tar Distillation Industry, 1953, 25¢
 - 14- M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, August, 10¢
 - 15- Trade of Canada: Summary of Foreign Trade, July, 10¢
 - 16- Trade of Canada: Imports for Consumption, Summary, July, 20¢
 - 17- Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
 - 18- Civil Aviation, June, 15¢
 - 19- M: Transit Report, July, 10¢
 - 20- Estimates of Labour Income, July, 10¢
- M - Memorandum
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Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.,
Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery,
Ottawa, 1954

It Costs More To Fish One result of the post-war modernization of Canada's fishing fleet has been a jump of close to 150% in the average investment per fisherman, from \$644 in 1946 to \$1,600 in 1952.

More Telegraph Wire Last year Canada had 450,835 miles of telegraph wire in use, 66,485 more than a decade earlier. Almost 20% of the increase was made last year.

Fewer But Bigger Tractors The trend was to fewer but more powerful tractors on Canadian farms last year. Farmers bought over 11% fewer new standard and row-crop wheel tractors than in 1952, but purchases of models of over 27 H.P. increased nearly 2½ times to 16,709 from 6,702. The number of smaller models bought fell 40% to 22,418 from 37,301.

Busier Hens Canadian hens over six months old last year laid an average of 15½ dozen eggs each, half a dozen more than in 1952 and two dozen more than in 1951.

More Cement Used More Portland cement was used in Canada in 1953 than in any other year on record. Apparent consumption was 24,706,390 barrels, 15% more than in 1952 and more than twice as much as in 1946.

Highest Suicide Rate In relation to population, more than twice as many died of suicide or self-inflicted injury in British Columbia last year than in the rest of Canada, and seven times as many as in Newfoundland. The death rate per 100,000 population was 16.1 in British Columbia as compared with 9.0 in Manitoba, 8.3 in Ontario, 7.2 in Alberta, 5.9 in Saskatchewan, 5.0 in Nova Scotia, 4.7 in Prince Edward Island, 4.4 in Quebec, 3.4 in New Brunswick, 2.3 in Newfoundland, and a rate of 7.1 for the country as a whole. In 1952 the all-Canada rate was 7.3.

B.C. Teachers Best Paid Salaries of school teachers in British Columbia averaged \$3,510 last year, over one-fourth more than in any other province and almost three times as much as in Newfoundland, where the average was lowest at \$1,199.

More Theatres There were 1,906 regular motion picture theatres in Canada at the end of 1953, an increase of 163 during the year.

Ontario Has Most Cattle More cattle roam the farms of Ontario than the plains of Alberta. At mid-year Ontario farmers had 3,011,000 head, almost 50% more than the 2,010,000 in Alberta. Next in order were Quebec with 1,990,000 and Saskatchewan with 1,387,000. Ontario led in steers with over two-fifths of the total in Canada, calves with nearly a quarter of the total, milk heifers with two-fifths of the total, and beef heifers with about a third of the total. Quebec had the most bulls and milk cows with a third of each total, and Alberta led in beef cows with almost two-fifths of the total.

Less Binder Twine Last year Canadian firms shipped only 33,896,191 pounds of binder twine, almost two-fifths less than in 1952. The value was more than halved to \$5,620,063.

Strawberry Pack Up Commercial canners packed 5,076,936 containers of strawberries this year, 1,787,508 or 54% more than in 1953. Net weight of contents was up 36% to 4,884,285 pounds, about a third of a pound per person in Canada.

More Street Lights It is presently estimated that more will be spent on street lighting construction in Canada this year than in the two preceding years combined. Expenditures are expected to total \$5,214,000 as compared with \$2,044,000 in 1953 and \$1,995,000 in 1952.



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